

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice, and amend claims 1 and 13 as shown below.

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims follows per 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(3). A marked-up copy of the claim(s) changed by this amendment, showing all changes made relative to the previous version of the claim(s), accompanies this paper on a separate sheet or sheets of APPENDIX.

1. (Twice amended) An element for a consumer product, the element comprising a carrier and an outer layer, the outer layer formed by a sol-gel process and comprising a polymer material with an inorganic main chain, wherein at least a region of said outer layer has a visual appearance different from the visual appearance of surrounding regions of said outer layer, wherein the visual appearance of the surrounding regions of the outer layer is dull-translucent, wherein the at least a region forms a marking which is visible to the human eye. *comment in*

2. An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least a region is integral with the surrounding regions of said outer layer.

3. An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the different visual appearance of said at least one region forming said marking is achieved by laser radiation.

6. An element as claimed in claim 1, the outer layer further comprising at least one filler material.

7. An element as claimed in claim 6, the outer layer further comprising fluorided hydrocarbons.

8. An element as claimed in claim 1, comprising a further layer of polymer material with an inorganic main chain, wherein said further layer surrounds the at least one region ~~(49)~~ which forms said marking in said outer layer.

9. An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inorganic main chain has organic lateral branches.

10. An element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said organic lateral branches comprise methyl groups.

12. An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is comprised of a hard material of permanent shape.

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13. (Twice Amended) An element as claimed in claim 24,
wherein the hard material is selected from metal and metal alloy,
and the carrier further comprising an anodized layer which
supports said outer layer.

24. An element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the hard
material is selected from the group consisting of metal, metal
alloy, ceramic, glass and hard plastic.

A marked-up copy of the rewritten claim(s), showing all
changes made relative to the previous version of the claim(s),
accompanies this paper on a separate sheet or sheets of APPENDIX
per 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 24 (renumbered) remain in
the application.